



FORWARD

SHA'AR ZAHAY ITT TIN

OCTOBER 1980 from the co-leader

When I became the chairperson of the ritual committee, I inherited a folder of materials from the previous committee chair. Among the photocopied poems and prayers, I came across a paper with the saying, "Doing a good job here is like wetting your pants in a dark suit - it gives you a warm feeling, but nobody notices." I thought it was pretty silly, but out of respect for my predecessor, I didn't through it away.

A few months ago, as I was going through the ritual committee material I'd accumulated, getting ready to hand it over to the new chairpersons, I found the above saying. This time it didn't seem as silly. In fact, I saw it as a gently satirical but accurate summary of what working

in Sha'ar Zahav can be.

As so often happens in volunteer organizations, the responsibilities and duties of officers and others in responsible positions are not well delineated. As a result, few things are required of us, but everything is expected. This problem which has been discussed extensively, and which my fellow co-leader, Rob, the Va'ad, and I are working on, seems a little closer to resolution. But even a specific outline of what each individual should do cannot completely eliminate the sentiment of the dark suit quote.

Short of awards announced in the Forward each month (e.g., most overworked Va'ad member or committee chair, most thankless task), what can we do? There are several ways that each of us can help prevent frustration and bitterness in those who so generously give of themselves to Sha'ar Zahav. The first is feedback. If Sha'ar Zahav is to serve the needs of its members, the gay and lesbian community of the Bay Area, we need to know what people need and want. Without feedback, we plan and prioritize according to our own particular preferences, which do not always reflect the majority opinion. The only way to influence, whether it is something you like being repeated or something you don't like not happening again, is to tell us. Most committee chairs are open to both positive and negative criticism.

The second way to help Sha'ar Zahav avoid the classic burnout syndrome is with your own participation. Sometimes individuals have trouble delegating responsibilities and

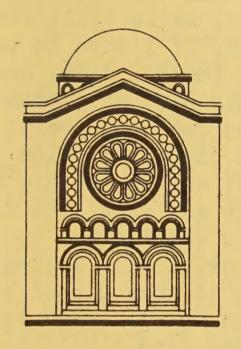
work (I confess to being a prime example). However, at other times, there is a shortage of personpower to staff committees, and work on special projects. Just as participation by others is vital to the health and wellbeing of those in charge of getting things done, it is important to you as members of our community: by becoming involved, by making Sha'ar Zahav your synagogue

in a more concrete way.

Let the point of this article be construed as a pitch for participation, and to be open with your praise. The magnitude of what we accomplish as individuals and as a congregation often escapes us. This is especially true of the ongoing activities - the weekly Shabbas services, and onegs, the monthy newsletters, the educational courses. Even when we appreciate these activities, and the work that goes into them, we sometimes fail to share the gratefulness. And how much more are we unaware of the building and finance committees' work, which keeps the synagogue going; membership, which recruits and coordinates information about members; outreach and programs', which direct external and internal presentations; and bikur cholim, which is our internal support system (God forbid anyone should need it)? To see real happiness, peace, and contentment on others' faces is, to an extent, reward enough for those in charge - but

the word of appreciation and encouragement makes the task immeasurably easier. Next time, don't leave a service or a program without a word of praise. You'll be repaid tenfold by a more energetic, satisfied, and eager leadership, and a warmer sense of community.

Love, Laurie Radovsky



SHERITH ISRAEL, WE LOVE YOU!!

On Friday, August 29, 1980, we shared a timely and exhilarating experience. At the beautiful home of Congregation Sherith Israel we held Shabbat evening services for an international community of gay and lesbian Jews. There was hardly a person who did not feel the celebration that filled the sanctuary.

We offer our very special thanks to the participants that lead the evening service. We wish also to again extend our appreciation to Congregation Sherith Israel for sharing their home with us.

Our thanks now to:

Rabbi Martin Wiener Rabbi Jon Rosav Cantor Martin Feldman Rabbi Allen Bennett Steven Fritsch-Rudser Victoria Phillips Marelyn Shapiro Laurie Radovsky Wendy

the family circle

I have always known what a wonderful family we are; but in the larger sense I never experienced that joy and wonder until I participated in the Fifth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews!!! What a glorious secure feeling of mishpucha; love, warmth, belonging, and a great shared strength permeated each hour, each activity, and each heart. We worked together, we learned together, we laughed and talked and ate together. Sometimes we argued together (nu, we're still Jews), and some blessed moments we cried together. If I live to be 120 I'll never be so rich as I was during those 3 days. And I carry now, as a very part of me, the taste of that richness. If those three days have not inspired each and every

If those three days have not inspired each and every one of us to new heights of dedication, I despair to find something that will. I will assume, I must assume, we are stinspired. I will assume we each enter this new year taller, prouder, happier, and more resolved in our committment to our faith, our community, and to each other. I will assume each of us will work diligently this year to come closer to achieving our diverse goals. I will assume we will each be more open, more loving, and more determined. And I will assume that I will not be incorrect in my assumptions! (For those of you who did not attend the Conference I offer the notion that you can share its rewards by participating, with those of us who did attend, in our heightened sense of our glorious community.)

How do we express what we learned? How do we turn an experience into accomplishments? How do we make what happened a continual "happening"? It would be a sin to allow all the energy and the goodness to remain only a potential; we must actualize as much as we possibly can. Membership in Sha'ar Zahav is a mitzvah; working membership is a double mitzvah! There is more to do than I can say; there is more to do than we even know...for the more we do, the more we learn what is yet to be done. PLEASE DO NOT ABSENT YOURSELF FROM THE TASK!

We must grow and be strong. We are everywhere, but not all of us are able/willing to undertake the task. Those of us who can, must...be among those who CAN!!! There is much before us; work, joy, accomplishment, satisfaction. There is also aggravation, trouble, and danger. We must face it all toget. The more together we are, the more we will know accomplishment and the less we will suffer from the troubles.

... TOGETHER, MAY WE PLEASE BE TOGETHER...

JOIN SHA' AR ZAHAV

from where i stand From the desk of ALLEN BENNETT

With the High Holy Days now behind us, I want to express my thanks to everyone at Sha'ar Zahav who helped to make our observance so richly meaningful and so beautiful. For everything from the preparations made by our tireless ritual committee to the floral arrangements on the stage to the delicious food prepared by the oneg committee to the reading done by the participants in our services, I express my heartfelt thanks.

While I am expressing thanks, I should mention that I have received so many wonderful greetings from the members of the congregation that if I were to answer them all, I'd be doing it till next Rosh Hashanah. Please know that I appreciate your loving support and wish you all a year filled with self-fulfillment, accomplishment, joy, and peace.

As we look ahead to our new year, I am eager to dig into the mountain of tasks which await us. We will be seeing a flurry of activity from our new board, used to working together now, as their committees begin functioning at full capacity. If you are interested in joining in the work of our committees, look elsewhere in this issue of the Forward to see what committees there are, and where you could best expend your active participation, not just in our worship services, but in all areas of activity within our synagogue.

Just the other day I was speaking with someone who had come to our services for the first time at Rosh Hashanah. He said to me, "I didn't realize how seriously you are taking yourselves as a synagogue. I had always thought that you were just a group who got together for social things and occasional worship services. Now I'll have to reassess my position about joining, because now there is really something great to be a part of."

I couldn't have said it better myself! Indeed, we are a real synagogue, serving Jews in the Bay Area in a variety of very positive ways, always with an eye to helping integrate those parts of our lives which we were taught were incompatible with Judaism. Now we know we can indeed synthesize them all together, celebrating life as whole persons in our kehilla and our mishpachah, our community and our family.

Shalom, allew

As Sha'ar Zahav was hosting this year's conference in San Francisco, I decided to attend and to see for myself what it was all about. If the conference was held out of town, even as close as Los Angeles, I don't think I would have gone. By Saturday of the conference weekend I was already thinking about plans to go to the Sixth International Conference to be held next year in Philadelphia. What happened in one short weekend?

It would be an understatement for me to say that the conference was a major emotional experience. On my way to work on Monday morning I found myself hearing the songs we all sang as we linked arms. My spirit soared at the closing ceremony and I found myself crying, as I do now. These are tears of sadness that the weekend is over, and tears of joy with deep emotion over the connection I feltand still feel in coming home to my mishpocheh. It's a feeling that's really hard to put into words. I've never felt extremely "Jewish" or Gay," but somehow the weekend experience which combined two parts of my identity still is a big part of me now.

I am filled with so many wonderful memories: true emotional sharing of coming-out stories (past, present, and future) at one of the workshops, meeting people who told of isolated lives as Jews, and as Lesbians and Gays, getting to know people who are members of my own Congregation Sha'ar Zahav much better than I have at numerous onegs, trading addresses and invitations for visits, listening to couples who have been together over ten years. embracing and kissing my brothers and sisters and not even realizing that we were in the lobby of the Holiday Inn among strangers, showing the city I love to guests from out of town, hosting a Havdalah dinner while remembering that just several months ago I had never heard of a Havdalah dinner, sharing common experiences of being Gay and Jewish, developing a close friendship with my houseguest from New York who I met last spring through a chain of events involving our synagogues and another Jewish organization, seeing so many women at the conference and being happy to see Gay men and Lesbians

together I could go on and on.

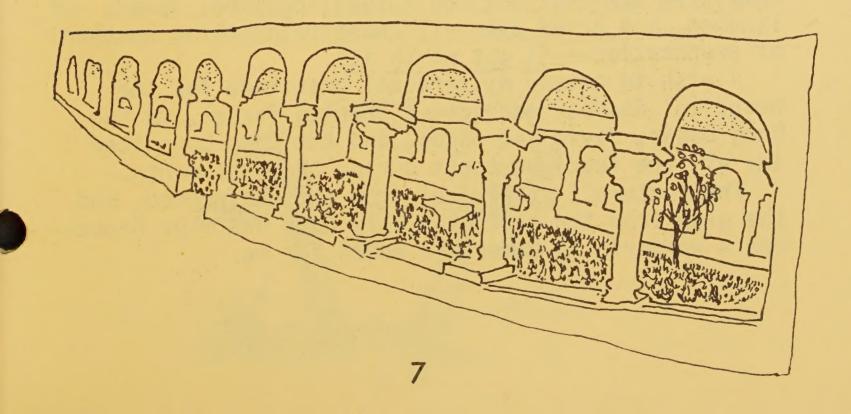
The conference also had a great sense of respectability for me. It was a combination of many people on the fringe of the fringe of mainstream society (with respect to their sexuality) in a traditional setting that reminded me of a professional meeting, except for the emotional connections and the loving feelings. It had all the standard ingredients: a large hotel ballroom dinner, a keynote speaker, workshops, a fancy program, registration, nametags, etc. However, the major extra ingredient was an all encompassing feeling if OKness to be who I am - to be Jewish and to be Gay - and to show my feelings with the men and women with whom I shared these feelings. A lot of my stereotypes vanished over that weekend, and I feel more complete as a person.

I found myself sharing some of my conference experiences with a straight acquaintence on the way to work. Only then did I find out that he is Jewish and has a good friend who is slowly and painfully coming out, and who he would like to help in the process. We then decided to get together and talk some more. Now I'm very glad I told him how I spent my Labor Day weekend so I could share the spirit of the Fifth International

Conference with him.

Next year in Philadelphia!

Shalom, Pete Tannen



Letter from Editor

As we enter this new year (5741), we bring with us so many plusses that to recite them all would indeed fill more than this space allows.

It has been my experience that acknowledgment is one of the finest rewards we can share for jobs well

done.

At least a thousand mazel tovs to Irene Ogus and Aaron Cooper as well as to all the tireless souls who labored long to bring us the Fifth International conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews. The conference which was held over the past Labor Day weekend was true brotherhood and sisterhood coming together at its best. People who arrived at the conference as true strangers to each other were soon embracing in the joy of our Yiddishkeit and "Gayishkeit."

Our Ritual Committee Co-Chair, Wendy, said to me, "what a marvelous playground we've all created for ourselves here." Now I pause to realize that the playground is yearround at Sha'ar Zahav. Here the "high"

continues.

By nurturing our spiritual, emotional, and social needs through Sha'ar Zahav we continuously maintain that playground for full self-expression and self-fulfillment. This is why we always urge our gay Jewish sisters and brothers to come to Sha'ar Zahav and share our joy with yours.

Our new siddur which made its debut at the Shabbat service at Sherith Israel is gorgeous. To the Ritual Committee and everyone who fussed, puzzled, fumed, laughed, and cried over all those painstaking months

of preparation --- it was worth it!

I wish to extend my personal gratitude for the beautiful Shabbat service at Sherith Israel, to the Oneg Chair, David Ben-Jacob, and the Oneg Committee for all the luscious onegs during the past month.

The rapture I still feel from the conference, and the glow from the past High Holy Days has made Septem-

ber a wonderfully memorable month for me.

Everything I've said thus far not only points out our unlimited potential, but illustrates our ability to realize goals of the highest standards.

To John Horstman, many special hugs for all his efforts, and particularly for organizing our successful participation in the Gay Freedom Day Parade, and for his work on the new prayerbook. We will miss John on the Va'ad. It is an honor for me to fill his seat on our board.

Last, but first in my heart, my undying thanks to my lover Don whose support never fails even when he thinks the whirlwind is going to sweep me away.

I surely love acknowledging and encouraging every-

one. That's what truly lifts my soul.

November newsletter deadline is: October 15.

Shalom,
Bryan Gaylor,
Editor

refugee followup

Scott Chase needs help moving the donations collected on behalf of the gay and lesbian Cuban refugees. Ron Lezell has donated the temporary use of his basement for storage. However, we are looking for a more permanent location for the items through their final distribution.

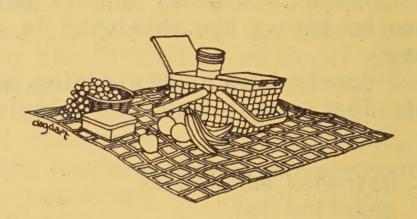
If you can be of assistance in moving and/or if you are willing to offer a more permanent location for the donations, please call Scott at home at 863-1998, or at work at 768-5396, between 3 p.m. and midnight.



Help reminder:

People are needed to get involved in the management and distribution of the donated items which were collected on behalf of the gay and lesbian Cuban refugees. We urge anyone with a few free hours to assist in this mitzvah. Please contact Scott Chase at home at 863-1998, or between 3 p.m. and midnight at 768-5396.





GOLDEN GATE PARK HISTORICAL WALK & PICNIC

Pete Tannen, and active member of Sha'ar Zahav is also a member of the Park Guides of the Friends of Recreation and Parks. Pete regularly leads historical

walking tours of Golden Gate Park.

On Sunday, October 19, at 12:30 p.m. Pete will be conducting a special tour of the East End of Golden Gate Park, as well as a potluck picnic friends and members of Sha'ar Zahav. The walk will begin in front of McLaren Lodge located inside the park near the corner of Fell and Stanyan Streets.

The walk takes about two hours and includes the Conservatory Valley, the Music Concourse, the Fuchsia and Rhododendron Gardens, Hippie Hill, the merry-go-round, Children's Playground, and DeLaveaga Dell.

Pete will discuss the history of these areas and also describe the plant life along the route. During the tour the picnic will be held, so please bring a daypack or something to carry your food conveniently. It is requested that each person should bring a food to share with approximately six people.

For further information, please contact Pete Tannen

at 282-4435.

bits & pieces

MAZEL TOV:

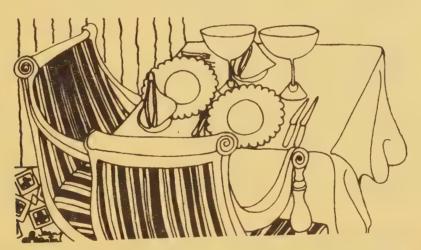
Carol Segal has just obtained her masters degree in Asian studies. Best wishes for the future from all of us.

WE MISS YOU!

Victoria Phillips, a dedicated member of Sha'ar Zahav, and loving friend to many, has returned to her native New York. Many thanks to Victoria for all her devotion and participation in the life of our synagogue. We love you, and wish you all the happiness you so richly deserve.

IS ONEGGING (?) LIKE CATERING?

David Ben-Jacob, Chair of the Oneg Committee, is now available for catering private parties and events. Call David at 776-1289. Believe us - is he experienced!



women's chavurah

Elegant potluck dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, beginning at 5:00 p.m., moving (but brief) Havdalah service to conclude Shabbat, stimulating and witty conversation, and a real chance to make new friends, all awaits you at the monthly Women's Chavurah.

All women, especially newcomers, are welcome!
Please call Laurie Radovsky at 621-0893, or Leila

Raim at 751-1576 for menu consultation.

WOMEN WHO JOIN WOMEN FIND JOY IN CHAVURAH!

we need you!

Now that our membership drive is in full swing for this new year (5741), we are urging everyone to participate more fully in the activities of Sha'ar Zahav.

Your talents are needed. Your ability to make a difference in the ongoing growth of our synagogue is requested.

Please contact any of the committee chairs listed

below and offer your needed services.

Your active creativity can reach rewarding fulfillment at Sha'ar Zahav. Give a hand and gain many mitzvot!

1.	Leila, George,	Membership Membership	751 - 1576 775 - 4386
2.	Bryan,	Newsletter	641 - 9047
3.	Aaron,	Program	549-0505
4.	Cheryl,	Outreach	861-8142
5.	Bob,	Finance	346-8285
6.	David,	Oneg -	776-1289
7.	Haim,	Education	221-9138
8.	Wendy, Steve,	Ritual Ritual	564-3104 861-3093
9.	Paul,	Building	661-2680
10.	Sam,	Bikur Cholim	285-6845





treasurer's report

THREE COINS IN THE PUSHKE

One of the most challenging aspects of being "The Treasurer" is dealing with other people's expectations of you. "What do you mean you don't know what's on page 31 of the new calendars, you paid for them." "Don't bother to add up that check for 30 people. Let someone who's qualified do it, like the treasurer." Sometimes I feel like carrying around a banner reading: TREASURERS ARE PEOPLE TOO.

In any case, this job has its joys as well. As a result of last month's column, Sha'ar Zahav became the recipient of various garage sale items which can be sold for our benefit. This is a practice I would love to see continued. Perhaps we can collect items continuously throughout the year, and have sales every so often to "clean house." One problem is that we really don't have any storage space for donated items. Can anyone or several of you kindly offer a temporary home for these orphaned items? If so, please call me evenings at 621-6637.

On a more serious note, I'd like to offer a suggestion which recently came to my attention. Death is not a subject that I talk about easily. Death touched my life too soon and too closely recently. However, someday it will touch us all. I'd like to stress that each of us should be prepared for that moment by having a will executed.

Please consider a bequest to Sha'ar Zahav along with you other choices. It can be a method of insuring that others continue to receive the warmth that is to be found in the family we call Sha'ar Zahav.

Until the next time.....

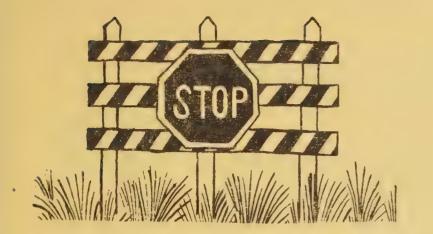
Your Treasurer, Herb Cohn

NEW VA'AD MEETING TIME

It was decided at the September Va'ad meeting that the monthly meetings will be held from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The Va'ad meetings are conducted on the first Sunday of each month. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

HELP WANTED
PUBLICITY PERSON
Challenging, rewarding
volunteer position now
available at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. No
experience necessary.
Work with exciting &
dynamic people in a
creative setting. Call
Rob at 929-0162 for
an appointment.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has joined the Council on Religion and the Homosexual. This organization is the oldest continuously active group concerned with the needs of religion in the lives of gay men and lesbians. Founded in 1964, the Council serves as a resource center for its members.





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Yahrzeit: Honoree	Date	Relationship
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Program		
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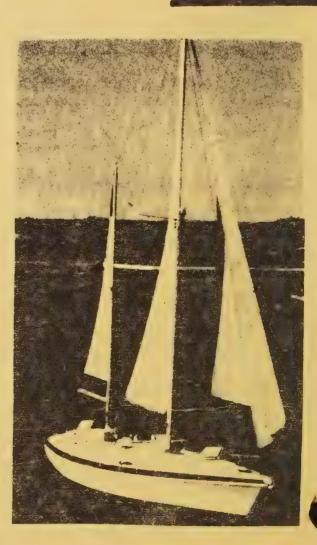
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NO POSTAGE NECESSARY



ritual calendar

RITUAL NACHAS!

The Ritual Committee wish to thank everyone for truly making this past High Holiday season a very special occasion. May this new year (5741) shine with riches and blessings for you and your loved ones.

Friday, October 3

Simchat Torah
Bereshit Genesis 1:1 - 6.8
Haftorah:
Isaiah 42:5 - 43:11

The Ritual Committee and friends will lead this most joyous service which marks the beginning of Creation as well as the cyclical reading of the Torah for the new year.

Friday, October 10

Noah-Genesis 6:9 - 11:32 Special Reading - Numbers 28:9-15

Rosh Hodesh Heshvan

Haftorah: Isaiah 66:1-24

Wendy, Services
Rabbi Bennett, Sermon

Friday, October 17

Lech Lechah

Genesis 12:1 - 17:27 Haftorah:

Isaiah 40:27 - 41:16

Steve Greenberg, Services

Friday, October 24

Va Yera Genesis 18:1 - 22:24 Haftorah: II Kings 4:1-37

Daniel Chesir, Services

Friday, October 31

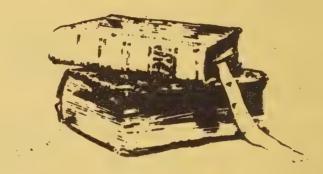
Hayye Sarah Genesis 23:1 - 25:18 Haftorah: I Kings 1:1-31 Laurie Radovsky, Services Anyone who is interested in participating in Shabbas services, please contact Rabbi Bennett at 621-2871. Steve Greenberg at 861-3093, or Wendy at 564-3104. We encourage everyone to participate and share in our ritual program.

All Shabbat evening services begin at 8:15 p.m., and are held at the Jewish Community Center, Presidio and California, San Francisco.

Shalom,

Wendy and Steve,

Ritual Committee Co-Chairs



IN APPRECIATION

I wish to express my deepest personal thanks to all of you who worked on the new prayerbook. My gratitude to those who attended meetings, ran errands, typed drafts, made donations, attended the S.H.A.D. fundraiser, or made phone calls. My love to all those who helped in the final stages of typesetting, art work, and printing. I hope that the support and love you have shown for our congregation continues to come back to you in the form of pride and enjoyment.

Each time I open the 'Kabbalat Shabbat' prayerbook I am amazed at the work of our hands and the wonders

of our hearts.

Thank you for your hard work, patience, and loving support.

Wendy,

Ritual Committee

Co-Chair

SEPTEMBER ONEGS

SEPTEMBER 5: By Alan Schrager

SEPTEMBER 10: Erev Rosh Hashanah

SEPTEMBER 11: Rosh Hashanah

SEPTEMBER 12: Shabbat Shuvah

SEPTEMBER 26: By Ellis Jacobs in honor of the Bar

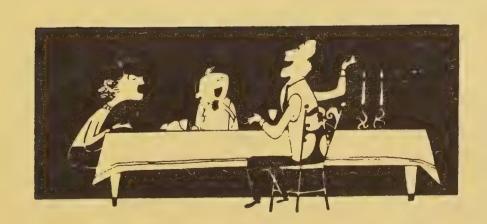
Mitzvah of his son, Larry.

I wish to thank everyone who helped to make the onegs during the High Holidays such a rewarding ex-

perience.

I am particularly appreciative of the generousity of Walt Liess who truly honored us by sponsoring all of the High Holiday onegs. Walt also provided all the beautiful flowers for our enjoyment. Because I am so moved by Walt's sharing, I am having a tree planted in his honor in Israel. This is my way of sharing the spirit of Rosh Hashanah.

Shallom, of Laural David Ben-Jacob, Oneg Committee Chair



birthdays

donations

Tal'or Bar-Shank	10/4	Alan Schrager
Randall Heilbrunn	10/7	(to the prayerbook
Susan Vlaun	10/7	fund in memory of
Mike Zimmerman	10/7	Lillian Schrager)
Wendy W.	10/13	Ellitan Schrager)
Bernard Pechter	10/20	Gerry Rosenstein
Charles Norton	10/21	Rocco Brateman
Terry Meyerson	10/22	Allan Blumenfeld
Seth Charney	10/23	Milton Jinowsky
Allen Berenstein	10/29	George Ash
Ellis Jacobs	10/29	460 F 96 F 1511
Shelley Fernandez	10/30	
		Annixonaan

David Ben Jacob and Elyer; 10/27

yahrzeits

Gerry and Eric, dear friends of Eric Keitel; 10/6 Nathan Ogus, father of Irene Ogus; 10/8 Sarah Marcus, mother of Ben Marcus; Tishri 25

congregation sha'ar zahav

Post Office Box 5640 San Francisco, CA 94101 (415) 621-2871

С	HANGE OF ADDRESS	S
If you're moving, please allow six weeks for processing time.	Attach current address label here.	
NEW ADDRESS: Name Address City S	StateZip Code	Mail to: Sha'ar Zahav P.O.Box 5640 S.F. CA 94101



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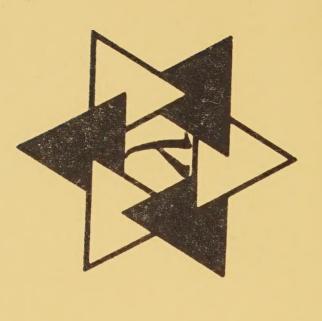
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ESHVAN 5741

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AAR AKKEN

SHA'AR ZAHAV EDUCATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM



The Education Committee of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is offering number of classes one may take. If you are interested in taking members, and \$10.00 for non-members). There is no limit on the There is a minimal fee for the courses (\$5.00 for one or more of the classes listed below, please check the an exciting program of classes beginning in the month of appropriate boxes and send your check payable to: Congregation Sha'ar Zahav - Edomm. P.O. Box 5640 San Francisco, California 94101 Specific times and days for the courses will be established after registration:

• Survey of 20th Century Jewish Philsophers and Philosophies 2. BEGINNING BIBLICAL HEBREW	3. INTERMEDIATE BIBLICAL HEBREW	4. BEGINNING MODERN HEBREW	5. JEWISH AND ISRAELI FOLK SONGS	6. READING THE PROSE AND POETRY OF THE BIBLE	7. ISRAELI FOLK DANCING
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Phone Name

Address

Days Preferred

Time Preferred

